

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 3-24 are pending. Claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 1 and 3-17 have been amended. New claims 20-24 have been added.

New claims 20-24 specify that the obtained image data is obtained by scanning. This limitation is supported by, for example, paragraph [0038] of the specification. The pending claims have been amended to specify that the image related information includes a thumbnail image. This amendment is supported by, for example, paragraph [0047] of the specification. Claim 1 has been amended to include an operation portion that accepts a user input designating an external device as a sending destination of the image-related information; and in response to the input of a sending destination by the user, the sending portion automatically sends the image-related information to an external device at the designated destination. Claims 5, 8, 9 and 10 have been similarly amended. This amendment is supported by, for example, paragraphs [0047] and [0056]. Claims 1, 8, 11, and 15 have also been amended to specify that the output form is determined based on the image related information (thumbnail). This amendment is supported by, for example, paragraph [0057].

Claims 1-4, 8 and 11-14 and 18 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umabayashi in view of Kimura. Claims 5-7, 9, 10, 15-17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umabayashi in view of Kimura and Phillips. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As stated above, independent claims 1, 5, 8, 9 and 10 have been amended to include an operation portion that accepts a user input designating an external device as a sending destination of the image-related information; and in response to the input of a sending destination by the user, the sending portion automatically sends the image-related information to an external device at the designated destination. Accordingly, the image forming apparatus automatically push-transmits image related information to the external device at the designated designation.

The cited art fails to disclose this feature. Umebayashi discloses browsing, from a Web browser (PC), image data on a Web server of an image forming apparatus, and allowing selection of an image to be printed. Although Umebayashi teaches that the Web browser (PC) pulls out information from image data of the image forming apparatus, it does not teach or suggest that the image forming apparatus automatically push-transmits the image-related information to the external device as claimed. Further, Kimura and Phillips also fail to disclose or suggest this feature. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 1, 5, 8, 9 and 10, should be withdrawn for at least this reason.

In addition, independent claims 1, 8, 11, and 15 have been amended to specify that the output form is determined based on the image related information (thumbnail). Accordingly, the claimed image forming apparatus receives output form information from the external device and forms an image based on the output of that form.

Umebayashi does not describe setting the output form at the external device. Kimura discloses a printer driver (PC) that obtains information on resolution and the like from a printer, and carries out image processing based on the obtained information. In the claimed invention, the output form is transmitted from the external device to the image forming apparatus. However, in Kimura information such as the resolution is transmitted from the printer to the printer driver (PC). Accordingly, the direction of the information transmitted is different in Kimura. In addition, the content of the information transmitted is different. In the claimed invention the information includes output form, whereas the information of Kimura includes the printer performance information such as the resolution. Accordingly, Kimura fails to disclose setting the output form at the external device. Finally, the Phillips reference is silent on this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, the rejections of independent claims 1, 8, 11, and 15, should also be withdrawn for this reason.

For the foregoing reasons, the rejections of claims 1, 5, 8, 9 and 10, 11 and 15, should be withdrawn. The rejections of claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 12-14, and 16-19, which depend from these claims should be withdrawn for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above, this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **325772033300**.

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Respectfully submitted,

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